

that surrounds it. It is clear to me that if Babbitt's mineral withdrawal succeeds there will be subsequent steps to pick away at the area until it ultimately would be consumed by the wilderness system.

As a matter of standing policy, the Montana Mining Association is opposed to administrative withdrawals of any lands from mineral entry. In this instance, the egregious violation of the intent of the withdrawal procedure for the sole purpose of mollifying preservationist interests solidifies our resolve. We firmly believe that the continual hijacking of established procedures to achieve political ends must stop. Please help us help ourselves and the country to thwart this effort.

Very truly yours,

DAVID B. ROVIG.●

GLEN GENSEAL AND SPRINGFIELD'S NEW KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, the community of Springfield, IL, recently dedicated a new Korean War Memorial which features, inscribed in stone, this poem, written by Glen Genseal in tribute to our fallen soldiers in Korea:

MY BRAVE YOUNG MEN

(by Glen Genseal)

I took a walk in the park of my old home town

Hardly noticing anything that was around.

Just this day, I don't know why,

I looked at the cannon and stone war plaque when passing by.

There were name upon names written on the plaque

Of brave young men who never came back.

A certain guilty feeling came over me,

I didn't know why, but I was soon to see.

Off in the distance, I thought I heard

Soldiers marching to cadence and time.

I blinked my eyes, shook my head,

Looked at the plaque,

And here's what it said:

Take a good look at my brave young men as they go marching by,

I want you to hear all their widows and mothers cry.

I want you to touch each salty tear,

And feel each heartache, that will never disappear.

Look into the lost eyes of every wife, mother, and dad,

Then gently squeeze the small hand of each fatherless child

That war has left so sad.

Oh my friend, never forget as you walk by,

The sacrifice of my brave young men who had to die.

Let it be known and always ever so plain,

That my brave young men did not die in vain.

America will always be the home of the brave,

America will always be the land of the free.

Because of the life of each young man

Whose name, written in blood, is upon me.

God bless America and my brave young men.

Mr. President, Tracy Johnson, who has done a superb job for the people of Illinois and for me in my office in Springfield, is the daughter of Glen Genseal. She is proud of her father and of his contribution to this lasting and fitting memorial to those who served

and died in Korea, and I am proud of them both.

SURGING TAX BURDEN UNDER PRESIDENT CLINTON

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, under President Bill Clinton, the Federal tax burden as a percentage of national income has risen to the second highest level in American history. As reported by economist Bruce Bartlett, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce, in the first quarter of 1996 Federal taxes consumed 20.5 percent of gross domestic product. Only during periods of war and other unique economic circumstances has the tax burden risen to such levels. For instance, at the height of World War II in 1945, and of the Vietnam war in 1969, Federal taxes took only 20.1 percent and 20.3 percent of GDP, respectively. During the late 1970's and early 1980's, double-digit inflation and a Tax Code that was not indexed for inflation pushed the tax burden to an all-time high of 20.8 percent of GDP. President Clinton's 1993 tax increase—the biggest tax increase in the history of the world—is largely responsible for raising the tax burden from 19.2 percent of GDP in President Bush's last year to today's 20.5 percent of GDP. In my view, there is absolutely no justification for imposing such a heavy tax burden on the American people. We ought to let American people keep more of what they earn so that they can do more for their families and communities. And the best way to accomplish this is to reduce income tax rates for everyone by at least 15 percent.

I ask that Mr. Bartlett's Detroit News editorial be printed in the RECORD immediately following my remarks.

The editorial follows:

[From the Detroit News, June 24, 1996]

A SURGING RECORD OF CLINTON TAX LOAD

(By Bruce Bartlett)

Recently released data show federal taxes continuing their relentless upward trend. As I have previously reported, federal taxes consumed 20.4 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) last year—the second highest level in American history.

According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, however, in the first quarter of 1996 federal revenues have risen by another 0.1 percent to 20.5 percent of GDP. As the figure indicates, federal revenues have now risen by 1.5 percentage points of GDP during the Clinton administration.

This works out to an increase of just over 0.1 percent of GDP every quarter Bill Clinton has been in office. On this basis, we can anticipate that by the fourth quarter of 1996 federal revenues will equal their all-time high of 20.8 percent.

The Congressional Budget Office now estimates that gross domestic product will amount to \$7,584 billion in 1996. Thus if revenues were simply to return to the level they were at when Bill Clinton took office, we would have to cut taxes by \$114 billion this year. And every quarter that tax revenues as a share of GDP rise another 0.1 percent, we must increase the size of the tax cut by an additional \$7.6 billion.

Predictably, the Clinton administration is hostile to the idea of a tax cut. With the sole exception of John F. Kennedy, no Democratic president in history has ever proposed a major tax cut. Democrats always want to hold on to every last dollar of the taxpayers' money—no tax cut is ever as valuable to them as the equivalent amount of government spending.

Even if they were convinced that a tax cut was justified, it is always "unfair" to cut tax rates because that means that those who pay the most taxes get a bigger tax cut. That is why Democrats like tax credits, because they are tax equivalent of government spending. Republicans, by contrast, have historically supported tax rate reductions and increases in tax exemptions, which allow people to keep more of their own money.

Republicans in Congress, therefore, committed a fatal error when they made the \$500 child credit the centerpiece of their tax plan. It essentially is Democratic tax policy. As a result, the differences between the two parties on the central issue of taxation have become blurred.

Moreover, the Republicans' obsession with balancing the budget at all costs has blinded them to the need for a tax cut vastly larger than the minuscule \$122 billion over six years that they have proposed in their latest budget. They should be talking about a tax rate reduction of at least 15 percent across the board.●

LT. COL. BRYAN T. LAWLER

● Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a gentleman of outstanding character and dedication to his country. Lieutenant Colonel Bryan T. Lawler of Eldora, IA has served in the U.S. Air Force for 22 years and will retire from active duty on August 1, 1996.

Colonel Lawler's military education in 1974, when he attended and graduated from the Minuteman Missile Launch Officer training course. Subsequently, after graduating in the top third of the class from Squadron Officer's school, Bryan Lawler's education culminated with a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Iowa's College of Law. He had been competitively selected for the Funded Legal Education Program and graduated with high distinction. Colonel Lawler also attended the Air Command and Staff College.

During his 22 years of service, Colonel Lawler put his Iowa Hawkeye law degree to exemplary use. He served in the base legal office at Seymour-Johnson AFB, defense counsel at RAF Upper Heyford in the United Kingdom, and Utility Legislation Counsel at Tyndall AFB in Florida. He also served as the Staff Judge Advocate at Moody AFB. He continued his service overseas, being stationed, again, in the United Kingdom and in Saudi Arabia. While in Saudi Arabia Colonel Lawler was selected to serve as one of the legal advisors who investigated the shootdown of two U.S. Army helicopters in Northern Iraq. The Colonel finishes his distinguished career as Deputy Staff Judge Advocate for the Headquarter Fifteenth Air Force at Travis AFB.

Because of his outstanding achievements during his services with the U.S.